

MYCOmmunity - Code of Ethics

Community Guidelines

Introduction

MCYOMmunity is committed to creating and sustaining a positive and supportive working environment for our members, and an excellent mycology engagement experience for the broader community. We aspire that all are equally valued and respected, and members are encouraged to thrive as a part of MCYOMmunity. As a provider of education about fungi and scientific training for citizen mycologists, we value the diversity of our community. We are committed to providing a fair, positive, and mutually supportive experience.

To this end, we acknowledge the following basic rights for all members and prospective members of our community:

To be treated with respect and dignity.

To be treated fairly with regard to all procedures, assessments and choices.

To be encouraged to reach one's full potential.

These rights carry responsibilities and we require all members of our community to recognise these rights and act in accordance with them. In addition, we will comply with all relevant legislation and good practice.

No individual will be unjustly discriminated against. This includes, but is not limited to, discrimination because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, education, position, previous experience, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Dealing with discrimination

We perceive bullying, harassment and victimisation of any individual as contradictory to our aspirations for a supportive working environment and will not be tolerated. Agreeing to abide by these guidelines means you acknowledge a violation of the guidelines will result in termination of your membership.

Be Considerate

You are sharing space, equipment and working with other communities and their members so be considerate of how your actions affect your peers, MYCOmmunity and the community as a whole.

Examples of inconsiderate behaviour in general and in the context of MYCOmmunity include:

- Using offensive language
- Talking over/interrupting other people in a group conversation/discussion
- NSFW dialogue (conversations related to drugs, sex)

Be Respectful

Treat one another and members of the community with respect. Everyone can make a valuable contribution to MCYOMmunity. Disagreement is no excuse for poor behavior or poor manners. We might all experience some frustration now and then, but we cannot allow that frustration to turn into a personal attack. It's important to remember that a community where people feel uncomfortable or threatened is not a productive one. We expect members to be respectful when dealing with other members as well as with people from outside projects and initiatives. Avoid becoming involved in flame wars, trolling, personal attacks, and repetitive arguments.

Be Safe

MYCOmmunity operates in many different environments, including laboratories and out in the field. As such, members need to be aware of their environment and any inherent risks associated with it.

In the field members need to wear appropriate clothing taking into account environmental conditions such as weather or rough terrain.

We work closely with the Mycelium Laboratories. When taking part in events or activities at Mycelium Laboratories we expect people to follow the Mycelium Laboratories rules. If they are not a member of Mycelium Laboratories they should not be in the laboratory without a Mycelium Laboratories member present.

Members should not be intoxicated while at MYCOmmunity events.

Protect the Environment

MYCOmmunity aims to protect the environment. This includes making an effort to stop the spread of invasive fungi and other species. Members need to be aware of invasive species such as *Amanita muscaria* and *Flavolaschia calocera*, as well as potentially invasive species including many of the edible species we grow, and take precautions not to spread them.

Clothes, shoes, coats and hats need to be washed to remove spores before going into wilderness areas. Shoes should be scrubbed and either dipped in or sprayed with phytoclean, 70% methanol or similar. Shoes should be re-cleaned when moving between areas on the same day.

When working with fungi the potential impact on the local environment needs to be taken into account. When growing fungi this includes choice of species, whether to grow inside or outside, disposal of fungi, choice of substrates, use of disposable items and use of chemicals. When foraging or foraging this means being mindful of not picking too many mushrooms, not interfering with potentially threatened species and not causing any other form of damage to the environment.

MYCOmmunity members need to be aware that advice from overseas is often not applicable to the Australian environment. These choices should be made based on the best available Australian evidence.

When communicating with the public on behalf of MYCOmmunity, members have an obligation to provide sound information on how best to minimise negative impacts on the environment.

Be Collaborative

Mycommunity is a community group and about collaboration and working together. Collaboration accelerates and improves the quality of our projects and helps grow the knowledge of all involved. When you disagree, consult others. Disagreements, both political and technical, happen all the time, and we're no exception. Disagreement, debate and constructive criticism is often how progress is made and are a necessary part of doing complex work in a team. The important goal is not to avoid disagreements or differing views but to resolve them constructively. Above all, avoid making conflicts about the work into personal conflicts. Debate should never include references to someone's nationality, gender, religion or other personal characteristics. You should turn

to the group and to the groups processes to seek advice and to resolve disagreements.

When you are unsure, ask for help. Nobody knows everything and nobody is expected to be perfect. Asking questions avoids many problems down the road and so questions are encouraged. Those who are asked should be responsive and helpful.

Be Open

Communication is critical in any relationship, let alone a community organisation. Being open to discuss your time at MYCOmmunity in relation to these guidelines is important, and if you're reading this, we want you to be a part of the community! So we invite you accept the opportunity when it arises to discuss how we can make this community better.

Follow the Rules

Members and visitors of MYCOmmunity are expected to uphold these guidelines.

Ethics

Introduction

The goal of MYCOmmunity is to make the mycology accessible to all and it does this by making it both affordable to engage with, safe, and fun to do so. MYCOmmunity has a duty of care to its members, society and the environment. As such it is obliged to operate within Federal and State environmental, customs and OH&S regulations.

The code of ethics applies to all members that hold official positions, and those that engage with the lab through its use. While users of the laboratory must comply with community guidelines.

MYCOmmunity values

These values have been adapted from the [North American and European code of ethics](#)

OPEN ACCESS

Promote citizen science and decentralized access to scientific resources.

COLLABORATION

Encourage collaboration between citizen and professional mycologists.

TRANSPARENCY

Emphasize transparency, the sharing of ideas, knowledge and data.

EDUCATION

Engage the public about fungi and the environment.

SAFETY

Adopt safe practices and create a safe space for members.

ENVIRONMENT

Respect the environment.

PEACEFUL PURPOSES

Biotechnology should only be used for peaceful purposes.

COMMUNITY

Carefully listen to any concerns and questions and respond honestly.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Remain accountable for your actions and for upholding this code.

RESPONSIBILITY

Recognize the complexity and dynamics of living systems and our responsibility towards them.

Instructions for use

This code of ethics is meant to be used as guidelines to support members, users, and stakeholders in understanding what MYCOmmunity strives for. It applies to all manner of activities from fundraising, donations, community outreach, our governance, behaviour at events and more.

Acknowledging the Community

The community of stakeholders interested in MYCOmmunity range from people with very little knowledge of fungi to professional mycologists. We actively encourage participation in science by the general public. However, we also acknowledge that for research to be of value and conducted ethically, it needs to be done in conjunction with professional scientists. This can be through established citizen science projects or formal or informal collaboration. We aim to build collaboration between citizen and professional mycologists wherever possible.

We respect and uphold legislation designed to protect the environment, including customs laws and laws regarding collection of fungi from public areas.

Transparency

MYCOmmunity aims to be transparent in all of its dealings. To accomplish this all our activities are made public knowledge through social media posts and via the website where guests may comment, and engage with members.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

